

Labor Resources for Chester, South Carolina

Executive Summary

This profile contains information about the labor force within a 30 minute and 45 minute commuting distance from the center of Chester, South Carolina. Chester is located in Chester County, South Carolina.

The profile examines three issues: labor force characteristics, the availability of labor, and the average wages and salaries in the community of Chester.

Labor Situation at a Glance in Chester, South Carolina

Labor Force Characteristics	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Population, 2004	89,991	236,000	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	40,878	107,791	2,046,179
Availability of Labor	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Unemployed Workers, 2004	3,661	9,414	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	9.0%	8.2%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	152	324	22,196
Average Wages	Chester County	South Carolina	United States
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$560	\$581	\$658

Labor Force Characteristics for Chester, South Carolina

The composition and size of a community's labor force is linked very closely with demographic and economic conditions and trends in the region. The following labor force profile provides basic information on the population base and labor force characteristics so that the reader can better assess labor force conditions in the community.

Labor Force			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force 2004	40,878	107,791	2,046,179
Change since 2000	-2,709	-6,939	49,079
Population			
Population 2004	89,991	236,000	4,198,068
Change since 2000	55,244	158,387	186,056
Projected 2010	1,367,802	3,880,708	4,446,704
Gender Distribution			
Male	43,492	114,239	2,040,261
Female	46,498	121,762	2,132,454
Age Distribution			
Ages 20-34	17,542	45,966	875,330
Ages 35-49	20,443	53,697	925,330
Ages 50-64	15,782	41,167	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	44,146	115,683	2,084,880
Highest Level of Educational Attainment			
High School	29,103	75,388	778,054
Some College	16,163	42,737	500,194
Associate Degree	5,524	14,663	173,428
Bachelors Degree	9,654	26,706	351,526
Post Bachelor	4,989	13,578	178,529

**Prime working age group:*
People between the ages of 18-54 are often referred to as the prime working age group. In staffing a new facility, prudent managers often prefer to staff its production work force with workers whose ages form a normal distribution curve. This provides for stability, flexibility and continuity of knowledge.

Source: 2004 Estimates Based on 2000 U.S. Census of Population and
Woods and Poole, 2003 Edition

Employment Characteristics for Chester, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	37,217	98,377	1,906,571

Total Employment data include all full and part-time wage and salaried workers in the area. These people may or may not reside in the area.

Monthly Employment by Sector In Chester County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	3,738	10,812	12,379
Mining	480	1,372	1,603
Utilities	3,558	10,154	11,891
Construction	33,994	96,510	111,730
Manufacturing	86,304	242,283	275,573
Wood product manufacturing	2,505	7,147	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	3,455	8,649	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing	1,890	5,390	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	8,351	23,577	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	6,366	18,187	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	2,294	6,541	7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.	3,216	9,343	10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	9,255	26,394	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	1,264	3,610	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	2,348	6,744	7,846
Food manufacturing	5,335	15,251	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing	432	1,233	1,445
Textile mills	12,030	34,418	40,207
Textile product mills	3,573	9,033	9,724
Apparel manufacturing	1,592	4,566	5,321
Paper manufacturing	4,401	12,552	14,710
Printing and related support activities	2,192	6,265	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing	86	246	288
Chemical manufacturing	6,480	18,482	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	6,898	19,694	23,054
Wholesale Trade	19,336	54,420	62,523
Retail Trade	68,017	193,678	224,031
Transportation and Warehousing	14,324	40,534	46,941
Education and Health Services	104,295	295,527	156,232
Leisure and Hospitality	58,301	165,813	192,748
Professional and Business Services	56,148	160,390	186,481

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

Largest Industries by Total Employment In Chester County				
Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
Springs Industries/Katherine Plt	Chester	Polyester cotton sheeting	670	1967
Springs Industries/HW Close Plt	Fort Lawn	Comforters	375	1989
Cultured Stone	Chester	Decorative stone veneer	371	2001
F Schumacher & Co	Richburg	Distribution of bedding & draperies	355	1990
Weyerhaeuser	Chester	Plywood	304	1988
Guardian Industries	Richburg	Float glass	300	1987
Superior Essex	Chester	Communications wire & cables	265	1970
Omnova Solutions Inc	Chester	Textile finishing chemicals	210	1963
Philips Products	Chester	Doors and windows	165	1966
Springs Industries/Leroy Plt	Fort Lawn	Cotton sheeting	160	1965
Haddon House Food Products	Richburg	Food products	154	1943
PPG Industries	Chester	Fiberglass	141	1995
Schlegel Corp	Chester	Wire carrier	130	1961
ThyssenKrupp Steel Services	Richburg	Carbon flat rolled steel	125	1992
Morrison Textile Machinery Co	Fort Lawn	Textile finishing machinery	101	1959
GAF Materials Corp	Chester	Fiberglass mat for roofing	100	1979
Seamless Sensations	Chester	Home furnishings	93	1995
Chemtrade Logistics	Carlisle	Sodium hydrosulfite	83	1974
Ring Can Corp	Chester	Plastic bottles	57	1987
Zenith Engraving Co	Chester	Rotary screens for textile printing	46	1961

Employer-Employee Relationship

Employer-employee relations in South Carolina are very stable and the state consistently ranks as one of the least unionized in the nation. In 2004, only 4.5 percent of the state's workers were members of a labor union. Additionally, the state has consistently had one of the lowest work stoppage rates in the United States. On average, less than .01 percent of working time was lost due to strikes in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries combined.

Availability of Labor

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force (2004)	40,878	107,791	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	-2,709	-6,939	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	45%	46%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	3,661	9,414	139,607
Unemployment Rate	9.0%	8.2%	6.8%

The *labor force participation* rate is the percentage which results from dividing the labor force count by the total population.

Unemployment reflects the total number of persons who do not have a job and are actively seeking employment.

Other Potential Sources of Labor Supply

Total Jobs Lost Due to Mass Closings and Layoffs Past Two Years			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Total	152	324	22,196
Manufacturing	152	294	19,196
Distribution		29	1,213
Service	-	-	1,745
Other	-	-	42

Recent closings and layoffs are a rich source of skilled and experienced labor for companies seeking to locate or expand in a given area. Industries in which layoffs and closings occur can provide some indication of the skills and knowledge-base of many unemployed and underemployed workers in a region.

Commuters to Other Areas			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Commuters to other areas	16,223	41,560	31,833

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Workers commuting to places outside their residence are a significant source of experienced labor for new and expanding industries. These workers may be willing to consider an opportunity for employment nearer their place of residence.

Recent Graduates of South Carolina's Colleges and Universities

Certificates/Degrees Conferred From Technical Colleges in Select Degrees Within 45 Minute Drive Time of Chester County, SC	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	66
Data Processing Technology	66
Engineering Technologies (Total)	110
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	31
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	17
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	118
Industrial Electronics	65
HVAC	19
Precision Production (Total)	23
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	14

Graduation From South Carolina's Four Year Colleges and Universities In Select Degrees		
	Degrees Conferred (2002-2004)	
	Bachelors	Post- Grad
Computer and Information Science (Total)	910	108
Computer Engineering	150	149
Computer Programming	12	5
Engineering & Related Technologies (Total)	1,316	786
Chemical Engineering	136	38
Electrical Engineering	257	150
Industrial Engineering	78	44
Mechanical Engineering	268	95
Business Admin & Management	4,754	1,018
International Business/Trade	178	276

Source: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Wages and Salaries

Average Wage and Salary Comparison			
Sector	Chester County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$560	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$29,141	\$30,240	\$37,508
Avg. Hourly Prod. Wages**	N/A	\$14.73	\$16.14

*Covered Wages and Employment, 2003, SC Employment Securities Commission

** Employment & Earnings, 2004, U.S. Department of Labor

Average Annual Salary Manufacturing Sectors, 2004		
Sector	Chester County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$34,711	\$39,027
Wood product	***	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	\$41,802	\$39,031
Primary metal	***	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	\$28,999	\$37,533
Machinery	***	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	***	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	***	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	***	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	***	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	***	\$34,350
Food	***	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	***	\$31,898
Textile product mills	\$29,702	\$25,618
Apparel	***	\$23,705
Paper	***	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	***	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	***	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	***	\$46,620

***Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

Occupational Wages In Chester and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Chester County Area*			
Non-Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$9.17	\$10.94	\$12.91
Butchers and Meat Cutters	\$6.12	\$8.72	\$11.52
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	*	*	*
Chemical Equipment Operators	\$15.01	\$16.18	\$17.13
Chemical Plant & System Operators	\$14.40	\$19.47	\$25.17
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	*	*	*
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	\$9.76	\$11.62	\$13.39
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	*	*	*
Logging Equipment Operators	\$11.82	\$14.23	\$16.86
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$11.85	\$16.32	\$20.12
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	\$10.85	\$12.76	\$15.02
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	*	*	*
Machinists	\$14.34	\$17.95	\$22.00
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	\$9.48	\$11.50	\$13.41
Molding & Casting Machine Op	*	*	*
Sewing Machine Operators	*	*	*
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	*	*	*
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$11.24	\$14.02	\$16.17
Welders, Cutters & Solderers	\$11.86	\$14.40	\$16.99
Woodworking Machine Setters	\$11.74	\$14.58	\$17.76
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Chester County Area*			
Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Chemical Engineers	*	*	*
Computer Programmers	\$38,040	\$51,440	\$64,640
Engineers, NEC	*	*	*
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$31,760	\$40,640	\$49,580
Industrial Engineers	\$44,980	\$53,000	\$61,920
Mechanical Engineers	\$47,060	\$60,720	\$68,740

Source: *Occupational Wage Survey*, SC Employment Security Commission

* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available